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The basic problem with the current scholarly journal system is the incompatibility between the non-economic goals of academic researchers and the largely economic goals of commercial and even some not-for-profit publishers. When authors of scholarly journal articles assign their copyright to commercial publishers, they also give away the ability to control the conditions under which their research results are disseminated. This paper discusses the current system's problems and shares a vision for a more positive future. It includes a model copyright policy that would keep the ownership and control of scholarly information in the hands of research scholars and their institutions, thus ensuring that their publications can be widely distributed electronically at the lowest possible costs.

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The Public-Access Computer Systems Review

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